

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00234 201349Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /083 W  
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R 201251Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1730  
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 234

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK, EI  
SUBJECT: UNIONISTS WELCOME SPEAKERS CONFERENCE ON ULSTER  
REPRESENTATION

1. ANNOUNCEMENT AT WESTMINSTER JULY 19 THAT A SPEAKERS CONFERENCE WILL BE CONVENED JULY 27 TO "MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES THERE SHOULD BE" FOR NORTHERN IRELAND IN HOUSE OF COMMONS WAS GENERALLY WELCOMED BY UNIONISTS IN ULSTER. LOCAL SPECULATION IS THAT CONFERENCE MIGHT TAKE SIX MONTHS TO DECIDE NUMBER TO BE INCREASED. UNIONISTS HOPE FOR TOTAL REPRESENTATION TO BE 22 OR 24 SEATS BUT MORE REALISTICALLY EXPECT IT TO BE 18 OR 20. REV. MARTIN SMYTH, GRAND MASTER ORANGE ORDER, SAW INTENT TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION AS PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW TO PROVISIONAL IRA.

2. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) DISAPPROVES INCREASE ON GROUNDS THAT CONSTITUENCY DIVISIONS BY POPULATION WILL BENEFIT ONLY UNIONISTS. INTENTIONS OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST MPS TO SUPPORT LABOUR GOVERNMENT DURING PERIOD OF SPEAKERS CONFERENCE WILL ALSO DIMINISH GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPENDENCE ON GERRY FITT. LATTER IS ONE OF THREE ULSTER MPS SELECTED TO SERVE ON CONFERENCE ALONG WITH OFFICIAL UNIONISTS JIM MOLYNEAUX AND ENOCH POWELL. MP REVEREND IAN PAISLEY HAS OBJECTED TO THIS REPRESENTATION. HE ACCUSED SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON OF "GROSS DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST LABOUR OPPONENTS AND DESCRIBED APPOINTMENTS AS "AN INSULT TO THE ELECTORATE OF THIS PROVINCE."

3. PAISLEY OBJECTIONS MAY GATHER CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN TIME. THERE IS CORE OF UNIONIST SUSPICION THAT MESSRS. MOLYNEAUX AND POWELL ARE QUITE WILLING TO DEFER ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT IN FAVOR OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE "SUPER-COUNCIL". POWELL PARTICULARLY IS SEEN AS PUSHING FOR TOTAL INTEGRATION OF THE PROVINCE. THIS SUSPICION IS ADDED TO TRADITIONAL DISTRUST OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND DISLIKE OF THE LABOUR PARTY IS TROUBLING RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY AND THE ORANGE ORDER.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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